

THOR

MARVEL

35

LGY#761



GRONBEKK
DÁVILA
GEDEON
PARSONS
WILSON

THOR

“BLOOD OF THE FATHERS” FINALE

THOR IS THE KING OF ASGARD. RECENTLY HE AND THE VALKYRIE KNOWN AS JANE FOSTER WERE INVESTIGATING THE DISAPPEARANCE OF ALL THE SOULS IN BOTH VALHALLA AND HEL, INCLUDING THOR'S RECENTLY DECEASED FATHER, ODIN. THOR AND JANE FOLLOWED NIDHOGG, A SOUL-EATING MONSTER, TO LATVERIA, WHERE THEY DISCOVERED THAT DOCTOR DOOM HAD STOLEN THE MISSING SOULS AND IMPRISONED HELA, GODDESS OF DEATH AND CO-RULER OF HEL. THOR FREED HELA, WHILE JANE SUMMONED HER FELLOW VALKYRIE RUNA TO COME AID THEM AND THEN ENTERED DOOM'S PRISON OF SOULS.

THOR CHASED DOOM THROUGH A TIME STORM INTO THE FAR PAST, WHERE THEY INTERCEPTED A TIME-TRAVELING CHANOS BEFORE HE COULD STEAL THE RESULT OF A DANGEROUS RITUAL PERFORMED BY THOR'S GRANDFATHER, BOR. CHANOS BELIEVED THE RITUAL WOULD CREATE THE BLACK STONE OF DEATH THAT HE HAD BEEN SEARCHING FOR.

INSTEAD, THE RESULT WAS A CHILD. AND, AFTER THE TIME STORM CAUSED HER TO AGE RAPIDLY FROM AN INFANT TO A YOUNG WOMAN, THE CHILD'S IDENTITY BECAME CLEAR: IT WAS HELA HERSELF.

IT HAS LONG BEEN CLAIMED THAT HELA IS THE DAUGHTER OF LOKI, AND NOW THOR HAS TAKEN YOUNG HELA TO A POINT IN TIME WHEN HE AND LOKI WERE THEMSELVES QUITE YOUNG SO THAT HE CAN INTRODUCE HELA TO HER “FATHER”...

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THOR CREATED BY STAN LEE, LARRY LIEBER & JACK KIRBY

JOTUNHEIM.
SOMETIME IN
THOR'S PAST.

"IT BEGAN, AS SUCH
THINGS OFTEN DO,
WITH A BET.

♪ ...TOASTING
TO THIS FROZEN
BREED-- ♪

"OR MAYBE IT
BEGAN WITH
THE MEAD...

♪ --FOR THOUGH
THEIR WAYS MAY
SEEM UNKIND, THEIR
HOME IS A SIGHT
TO FIND... ♪

"AH, VERILY, THE
DRINK CAME
FIRST.

"LOKI AND I HAD TRAVELED
TO JOTUNHEIM ON
SLEIPNIR AND SOUGHT
SHELTER AT THE HOUSE
OF BERGELMIR, THE
JOTUNN KING.

"AND THE MOMENT
BERGELMIR SAW SLEIPNIR,
WE KNEW HE WANTED IT
AND WOULD DO ANYTHING
TO GET HIS HANDS ON
THE HORSE.

♪ AND AS WE
DRINK THIS AMBER
GOLD, OUR SPIRITS
RISE, OUR TALES
ARE TOLD. ♪

"NOW, HE HAD
THIS KNIFE..."



HOLD ON.
YOU BET DAD'S
HORSE FOR A
KNIFE?

WOULD YOU
LET ME TELL
THE STORY,
LAUSSA?



NITWITS!

IT WASN'T
JUST A KNIFE.
IT WAS FORGED BY
THE LIGHT ELVES
IN THE DEPTHS
OF ALFHEIM.

IT NEVER
DULLED. IT COULD
NEVER CUT ITS
OWNER--



"--AND LEFT IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND,
IT WOULD HEAT UP EVER SO SLIGHTLY
IF FALSEHOODS WERE UTTERED IN
YOUR PRESENCE.

"SO LOKI CAME
UP WITH A PLAN.

"WE WOULD CHALLENGE
BERGELMIR TO A BATTLE
OF STRENGTH.



"BERGELMIR WOULD
CHOOSE AN OPPONENT
FOR ME, AND WE WOULD
CHOOSE AN OPPONENT
FOR HIM UNTIL ONE OF
US WAS BEATEN.

THE KNIFE
FOR THE HORSE.
WHAT DO YOU
SAY?

OKAY.
WE HAVE A
DEAL.

FOR OUR
FIRST CHAMPION,
WE CHOOSE
HRAESVELGR.



YMIK'S
BEARD...

OH,
YOU GOT THIS,
BROTHER.



"HRAESVELGR.

"WRECKER
OF SHIPS.

"EATER OF
CORPSES.

"THE EAGLE IS A
MIGHTY OPPONENT.



"ITS WINGS ARE THE
SOURCE OF THE WIND
IN ALL THE REALMS.



"WE FOUGHT
FOR HOURS.



"AND OH, HOW
IT STORMED.

"AND HOW THE
SEAS ROARED.



"WHEN HE FINALLY YIELDED,
THE WIND STILLED FOR A
FORTNIGHT."





"AS I SAID, *MOIRA* IS KNOWN BY MANY NAMES."

"--HE COULD NOT BEAT HER."

"SHE IS *WYRD*, SHE IS *ANANKE*, SHE IS THE *NORNS*, BUT MOST COMMONLY, SHE IS--"

"--FACE."





In the after, Jane Foster listens as Odin speaks.

THERE WAS A TIME I WANTED TO BE ONE WITH THE HEAVENS.

I WANTED TO BE THE SOIL AND THE WATER.

I WANTED TO BE INDISPENSABLE.

I WANTED MY UNLIKELY DEATH TO BE FELT THROUGHOUT THE REALMS.

BUT AT SOME POINT, IT CHANGED.



She wonders if that is the true job of a Valkyrie.

THEY HELD A FUNERAL FOR ME, YOU KNOW.

IT WAS DIGNIFIED. BEAUTIFUL.

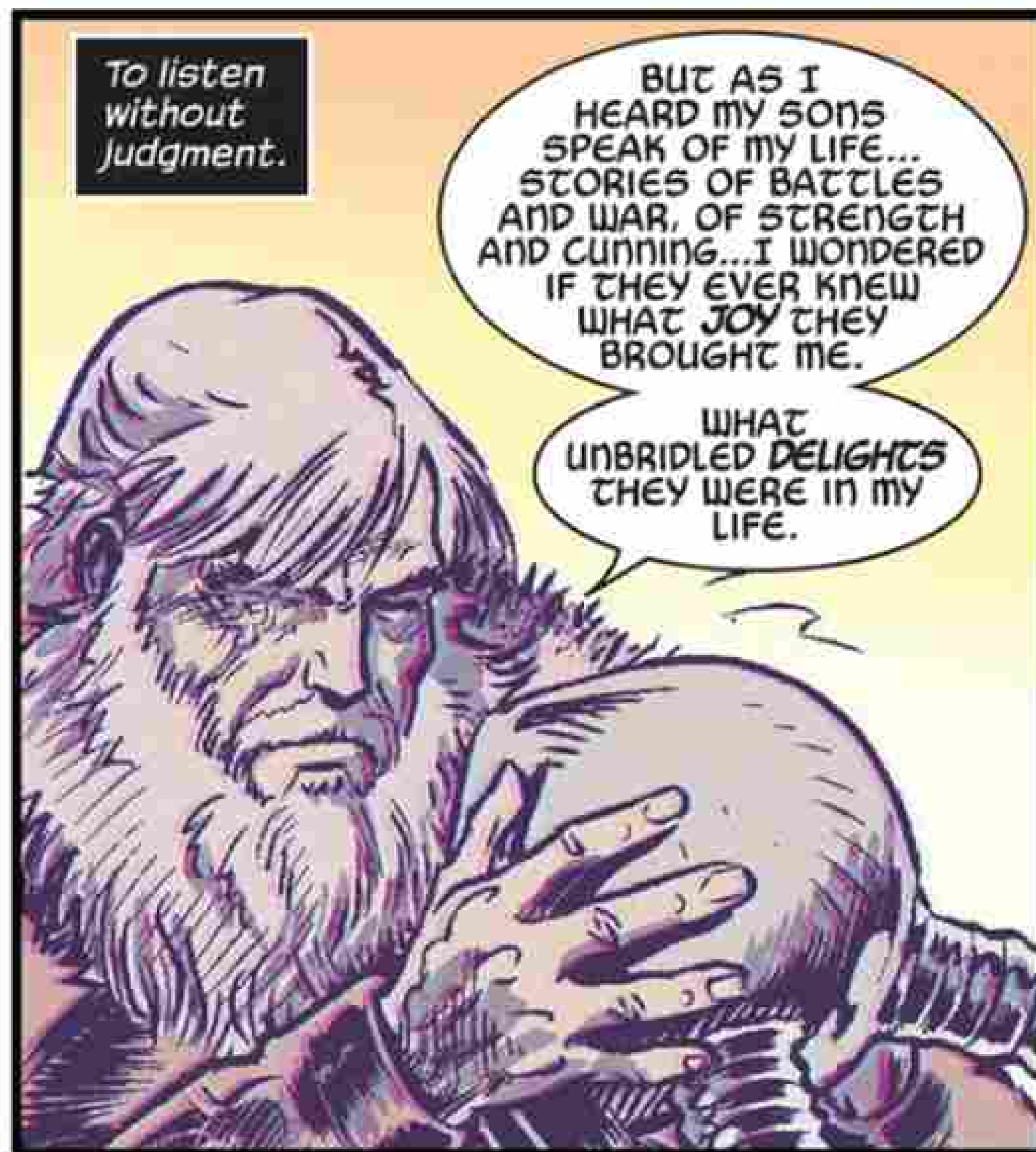
IT WAS EVERYTHING I WANTED.



To listen without judgment.

BUT AS I HEARD MY SONS SPEAK OF MY LIFE... STORIES OF BATTLES AND WAR, OF STRENGTH AND CUNNING... I WONDERED IF THEY EVER KNEW WHAT JOY THEY BROUGHT ME.

WHAT UNBRIDLED DELIGHTS THEY WERE IN MY LIFE.



TELL ME, WHAT WAS THOR LIKE WHEN HE WAS YOUNG?

HE WAS A SCOUNDREL. FOOLHARDY AND COURAGEOUS. A LITTLE NAIVE, BUT I SUPPOSE ANYONE WOULD SEEM NAIVE NEXT TO LOKI.



THEY DID NOT THINK I KNEW ABOUT THE THINGS THEY GOT UP TO...

BUT I DID. AND I WAS PROUD OF THEM. PROUD OF THEIR COURAGE. OF THEIR INGENUITY. THEIR BLOODY GALL.





"ONCE BERGELMIR FOUND OUT WHAT MOIRA WAS, HE WAS FURIOUS."

WAIT! I'M NOT--

WHERE IS MY KNIFE, TRICKSTER?!

"AND HE, QUITE RIGHTLY, BLAMED LOKI. BUT I WAS NOT GOING TO LEAVE HIM TO THE FROST GIANTS."



"TO DEFEND HIM, I WILL FIGHT BERGELMIR AND HIS MEN FOR HOURS."

I AM NOT LOKI! THERE HAS BEEN A MISTA--
HRMMMMF!

HOLD YOUR TONGUE, PRINCELING!

"BUT ONCE I DEFEAT THE FROST GIANTS, LOKI WILL BE GONE."

"I NEVER UNDERSTOOD HOW HE GOT AWAY. I NEVER UNDERSTOOD WHO RESCUED HIM."

"BUT NOW I KNOW..."



IT WAS US. IT ALL MAKES SENSE.

WHEN I AM BUSY FIGHTING THE FROST GIANTS, WE SNEAK IN AND FREE LOKI...

Hmm. ISN'T THAT HIM OVER THERE?



...BLOODY BASTARD.

I CANNOT BELIEVE IT... HE LEFT ME THERE TO FIGHT THEM WHILE HE STOLE THE KNIFE.

I CAN BELIEVE IT.



GREETINGS, BROTHER.

WHAT TRICKERY IS THIS?!

NO TRICKERY, LOKI.

YOU ARE NOT MY BROTHER.

YOU ARE NOT...

Detecting no lies, the knife stays cool in Loki's hand.

I AM YOUR BROTHER, LOKI.

mhm.

YOU ARE...

But Loki does not need it to know his brother tells the truth.

NOT GOING TO LIE, THOR. YOU LOOK LIKE...

DO YOU REMEMBER THAT TIME BALDER WOODED THE LADY WHO REFUSED TO TAKE OFF HER VEIL? WEEKS OF POETRY AND SWEET WORDS BEFORE SHE FINALLY REVEALED HER FACE?

THAT IS WHO YOU LOOK LIKE. JUST LESS... HAIRY.

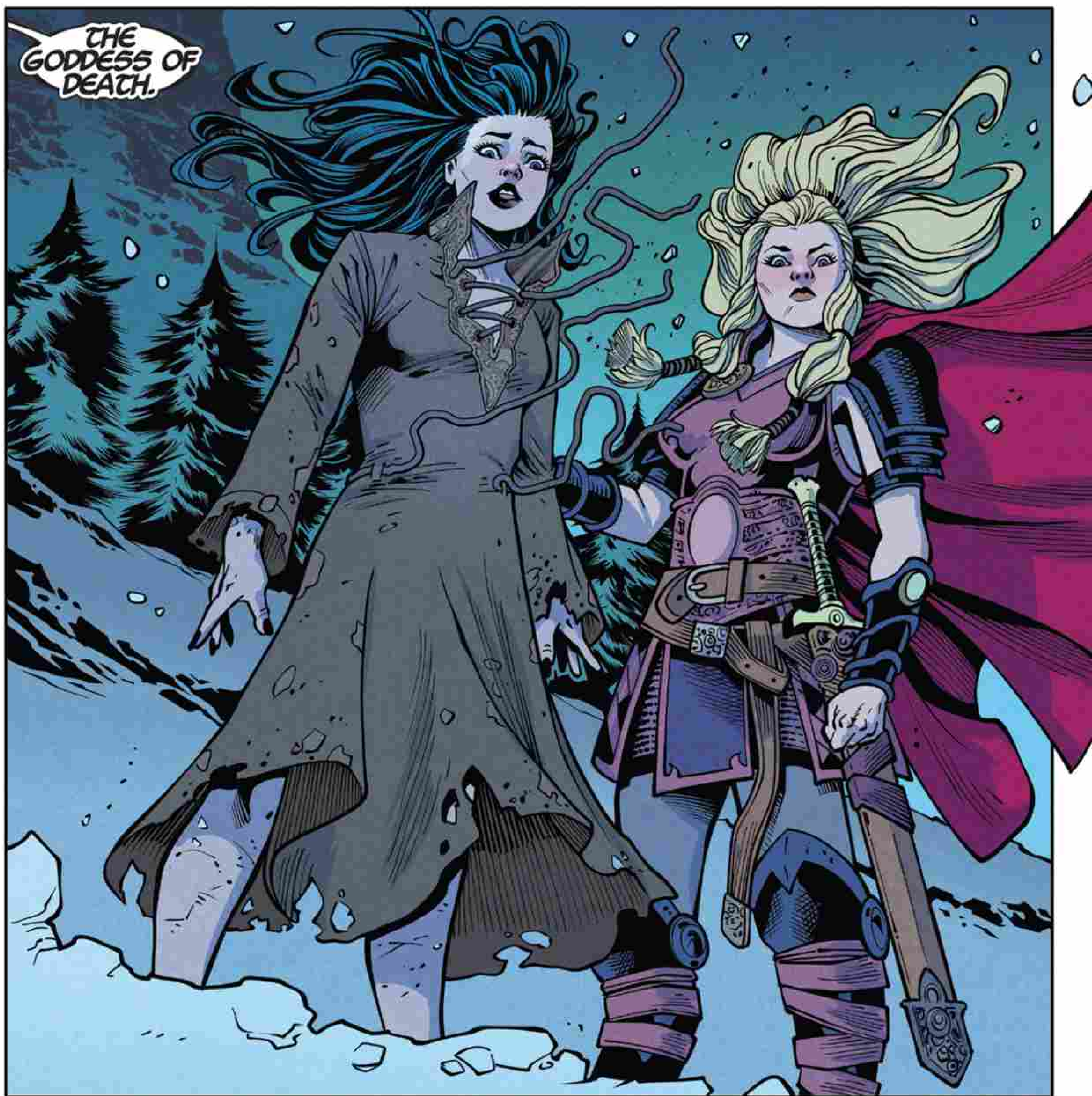
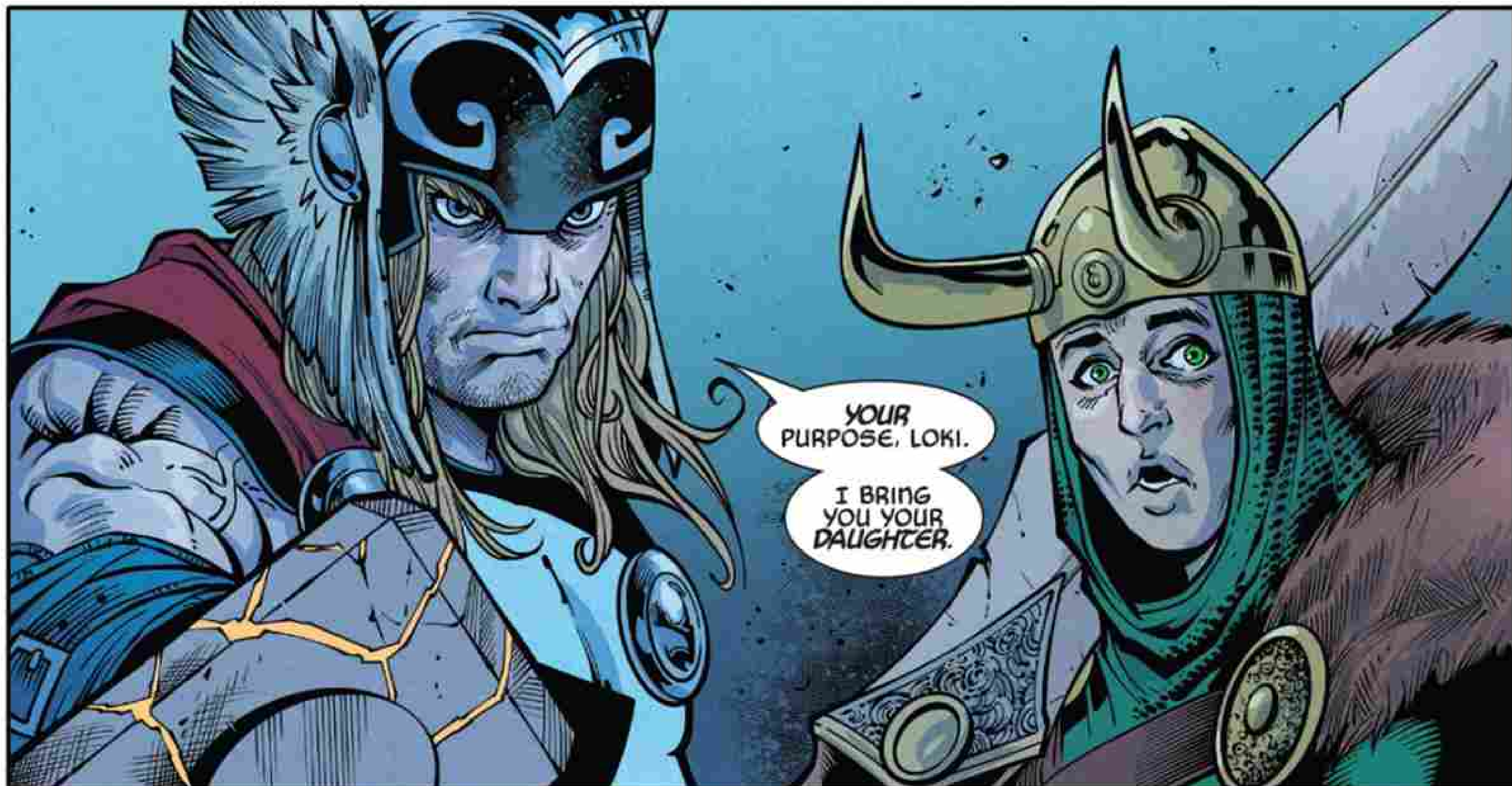
VERY FUNNY, BUT IT WAS BRAGI WHO SEDUCED BODIL, NOT BALDER. AND SHE WAS A FINE LADY.

AYE, SHE WAS.

WELL, BROTHER. THE YEARS HAVE NOT BEEN KIND.

IT SEEMS YOU ARE KING NOW. KING OF ANOTHER TIME, YET YOU COME HERE?

I AM CURIOUS, I ADMIT. SPEAK YOUR PURPOSE.



DOOM'S CASTLE.

HELA.

YOU
KNEW ALL
ALONG.

NOT
ENTIRELY.

I KNEW THE
BEGINNING, AND
I MADE A SERIES
OF EDUCATED
GUESSES.

BUT I DID
NOT KNOW YOU
WANTED TO SACRIFICE
THE SOULS OF THE DEAD
TO CONQUER THE
WILL OF YOUR
PEOPLE.

I DID NOT
DO THIS FOR
ME, HELA.

I KNOW.

YOU ARE
NOT WRONG,
VICTOR.

YOUR
WORLD IS
BROKEN.

AND IT IS...
DIFFICULT TO
SEE WHO THE
ENEMY IS.

I ADMIRE
YOUR FIGHT. YOUR
WILLINGNESS
TO ACT.

BUT...

...IF YOU EVER
COME NEAR THE
SOULS OF HEL AGAIN,
I WILL GRIND UP
YOUR BONES TO
SUGAR MY TEA.

YOU
SAVED MY
LIFE ONCE.

LEAVE.
RUN BEFORE
ASGARD FINDS
YOU.

WHATEVER
DEBT I OWED
YOU IS NOW
PAID.



The souls surrounding them are silent--

--but they are not at peace.

I HAVE REACHED THE END, FOSTER. I AM READY.

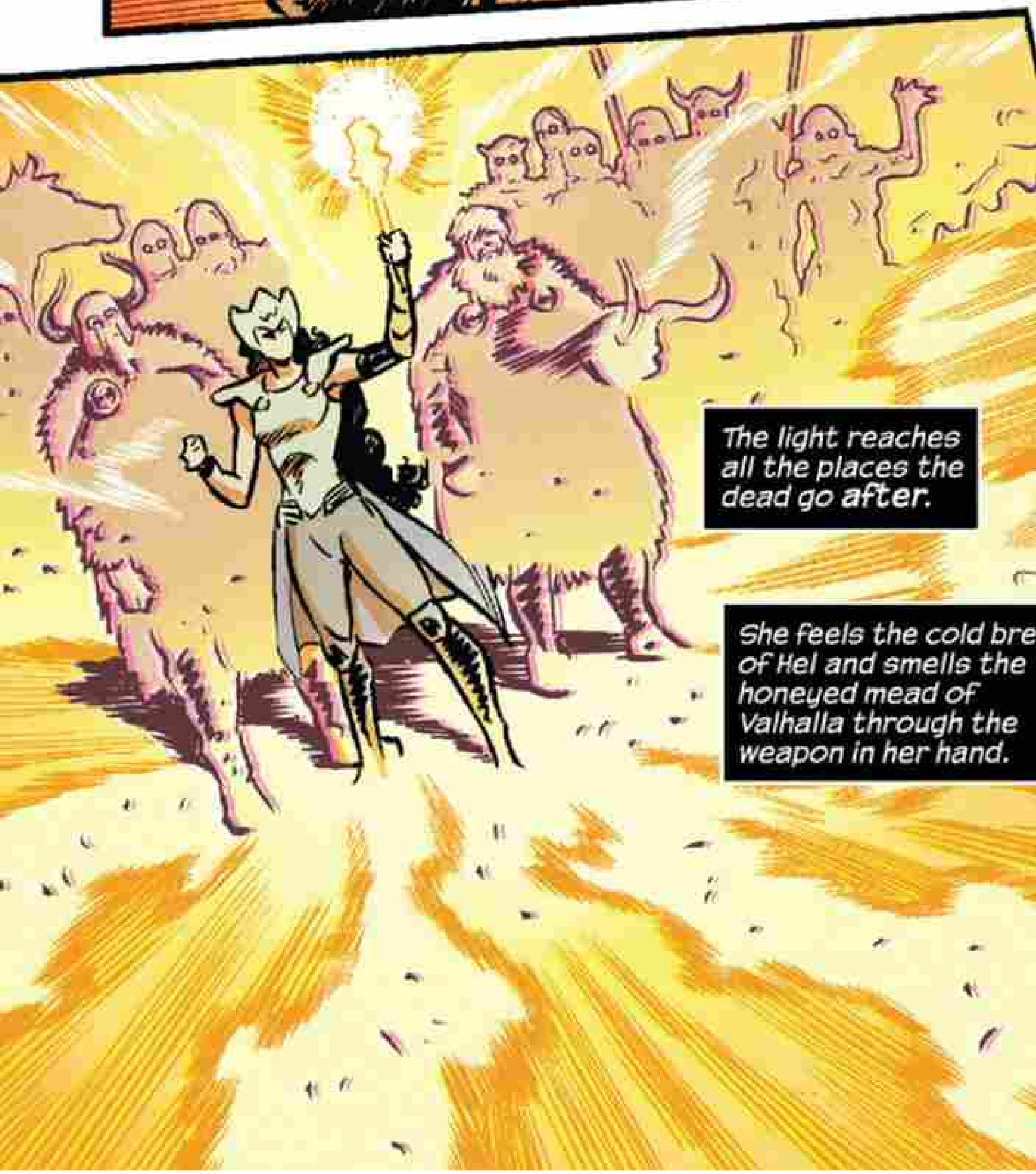


IT'S TIME TO BRING 'EM HOME. THA KNOWS WHAT TO DO.

YES. I SUPPOSE I DO.

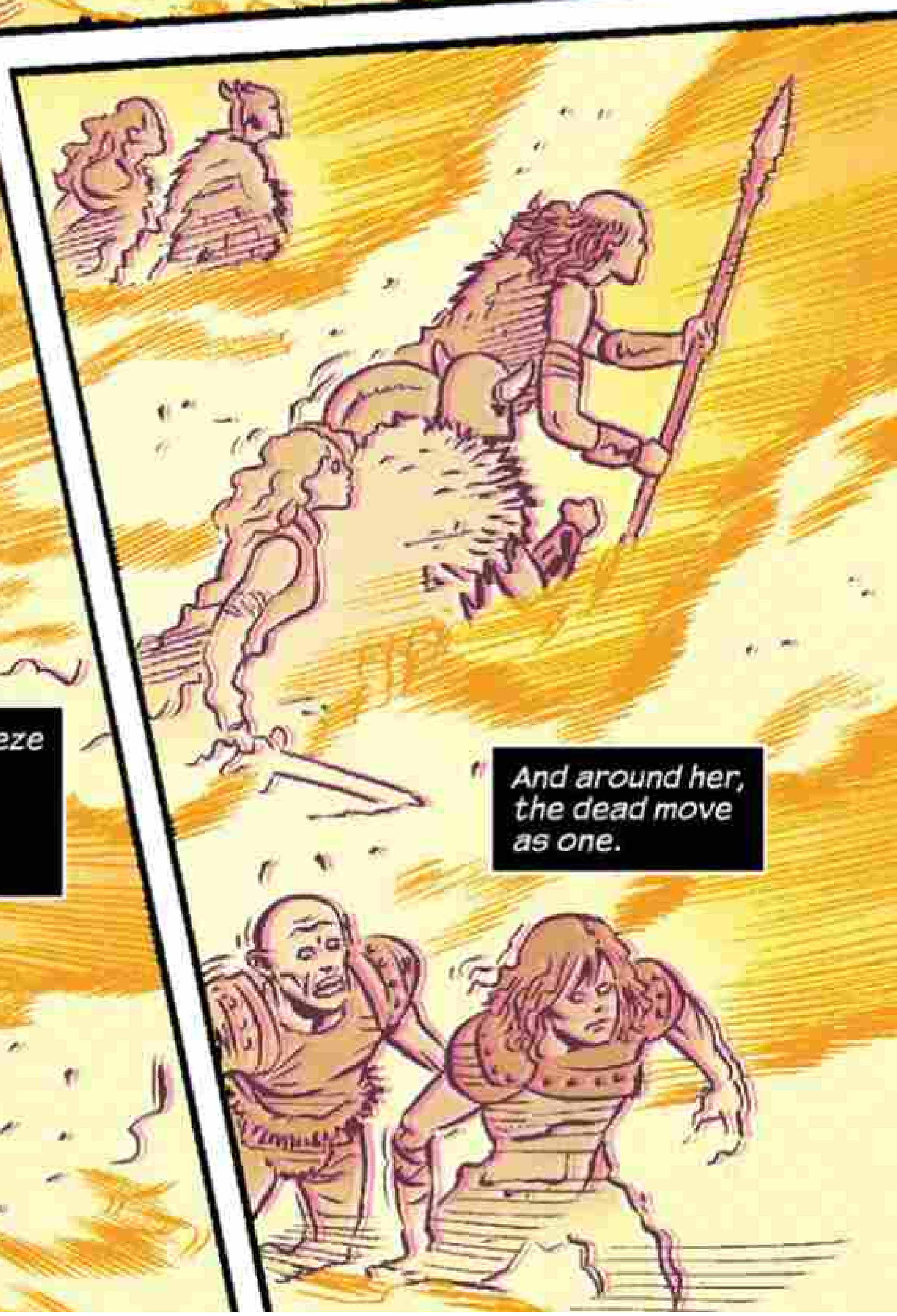


Undrjarn shivers in her hand as it evolves.



The light reaches all the places the dead go after.

She feels the cold breeze of Hel and smells the honeyed mead of Valhalla through the weapon in her hand.



And around her, the dead move as one.



There are many things Thor wishes he could tell his brother.

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I CAN DO THIS?

I HAVE SEEN YOU DO IT.

SHE GROWS UP TO BE...SOMETHING FORMIDABLE. MAGNIFICENT. MENACING.

WELL, THAT SURE SOUNDS LIKE A CHILD OF MINE.

GREAT FEINT, LEAH!



But they both know they are on stolen time.

I HAD TO GET HER AWAY FROM GRANDFATHER. IT IS PROBABLY A GOOD IDEA TO KEEP HER AWAY FROM FATHER TOO.

BRING HER TO ANGERBODA.

YOU WERE ON YOUR WAY THERE TO GIVE HER THE KNIFE ANYWAY, RIGHT?



AH, YES...

ANGERBODA DOES LIKE HER WEAPONS.

YOU KNOW, I REALLY THINK SHE MIGHT BE THE ONE.

ONE OF THE ONES, ANYWAY.

So they say little.



NOTHING LIKE A WOMAN WHO CAN CRUSH YOU LIKE AN ANT IF SHE WANTS TO, IS THERE?

THERE REALLY ISN'T.

Not even goodbye.



DO YOU THINK THEY WILL BE OKAY?

THE CENTURIES ARE LONG. THERE ARE GOOD YEARS AND BAD YEARS.

BUT WE LEAVE THE PAST TO THE PAST.

IT IS TIME TO RETURN TO OUR TIMES NOW, LAUSSA.

There are many things he wishes he could tell his sister too.



They wait.

YOU
REMEMBER WHAT
I TOLD YOU?

I WILL
TELL HIM.

Those who died
for him.

Those who
fought his
battles.

I WILL LEAD
THEM.

Those who were but a
second in the eternity
that was his life.

FAREWELL,
KING ODIN.

FAREWELL,
KING BOR.

VALKYRIE.
THIS MIGHT
NOT BE TH' TIME,
BUT IF THA NEEDS
REMINDIN' OF
T' TERMS OF WER
CONTRACT--

Those who died
with his name
on their lips.

Who belonged
to his time.

--I'M A
WORKIN' 'ORSE,
ME... I'M--

I KNOW,
I KNOW... I
WILL SEE TO IT.

They walk with
their All-Father
to Valhalla.

DEAR
MR. HORSE,
WHAT IS THIS
ABOUT?

CARROTS,
LAD. CARROTS.

Their journey ends
the age of Odin.





Jane Foster can still hear the dead.

WHERE IS ODIN?

VALHALLA.

I FIND THAT HARD TO BELIEVE.

HE SAID YOU'D SAY THAT.

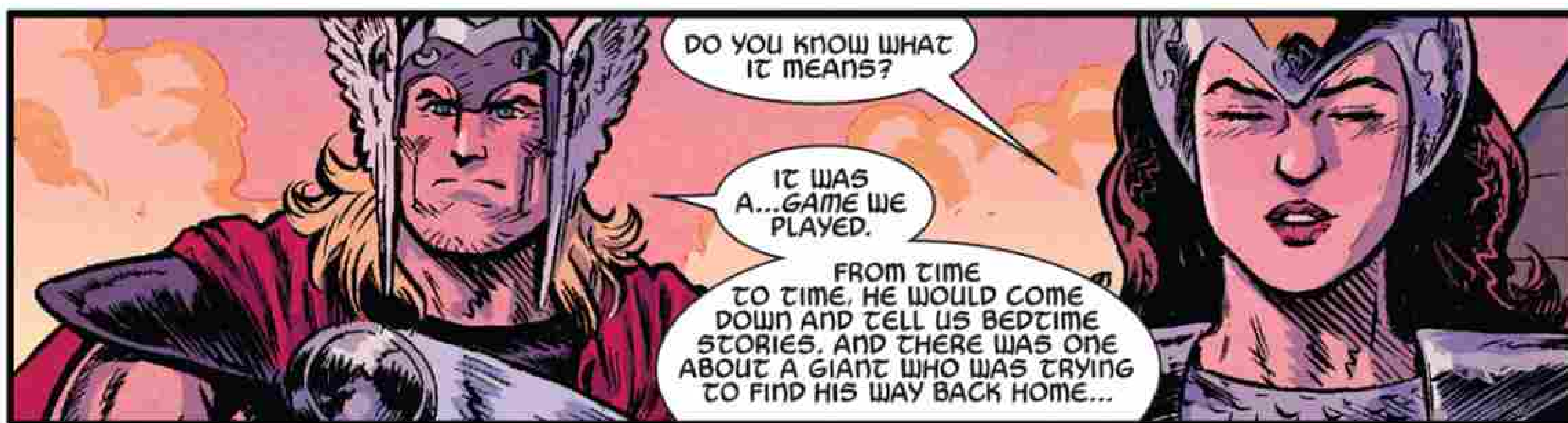
HE TOLD ME TO TELL YOU SOMETHING...

They sing as they make their way home.



"THE LAST THING OSTEGOMPEN SAW BEFORE HE FELL ASLEEP WAS THE STARS BEYOND THE STARS. AND THERE ON THE MOOR, HE FOUND THAT HE HAD BEEN AT HOME ALL ALONG."

...



DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT MEANS?

IT WAS A...GAME WE PLAYED.

FROM TIME TO TIME, HE WOULD COME DOWN AND TELL US BEDTIME STORIES. AND THERE WAS ONE ABOUT A GIANT WHO WAS TRYING TO FIND HIS WAY BACK HOME...



AND EVERY TIME OSTEGOMPEN WAS ABOUT TO FINISH HIS ADVENTURE, WE WOULD ASK ABOUT SOMETHING--ANYTHING--TO KEEP THE STORY GOING.

LIKE, "WHAT ABOUT THE RABBIT?!"--AND ODIN WOULD PLAY ALONG AND SAY SOMETHING LIKE--

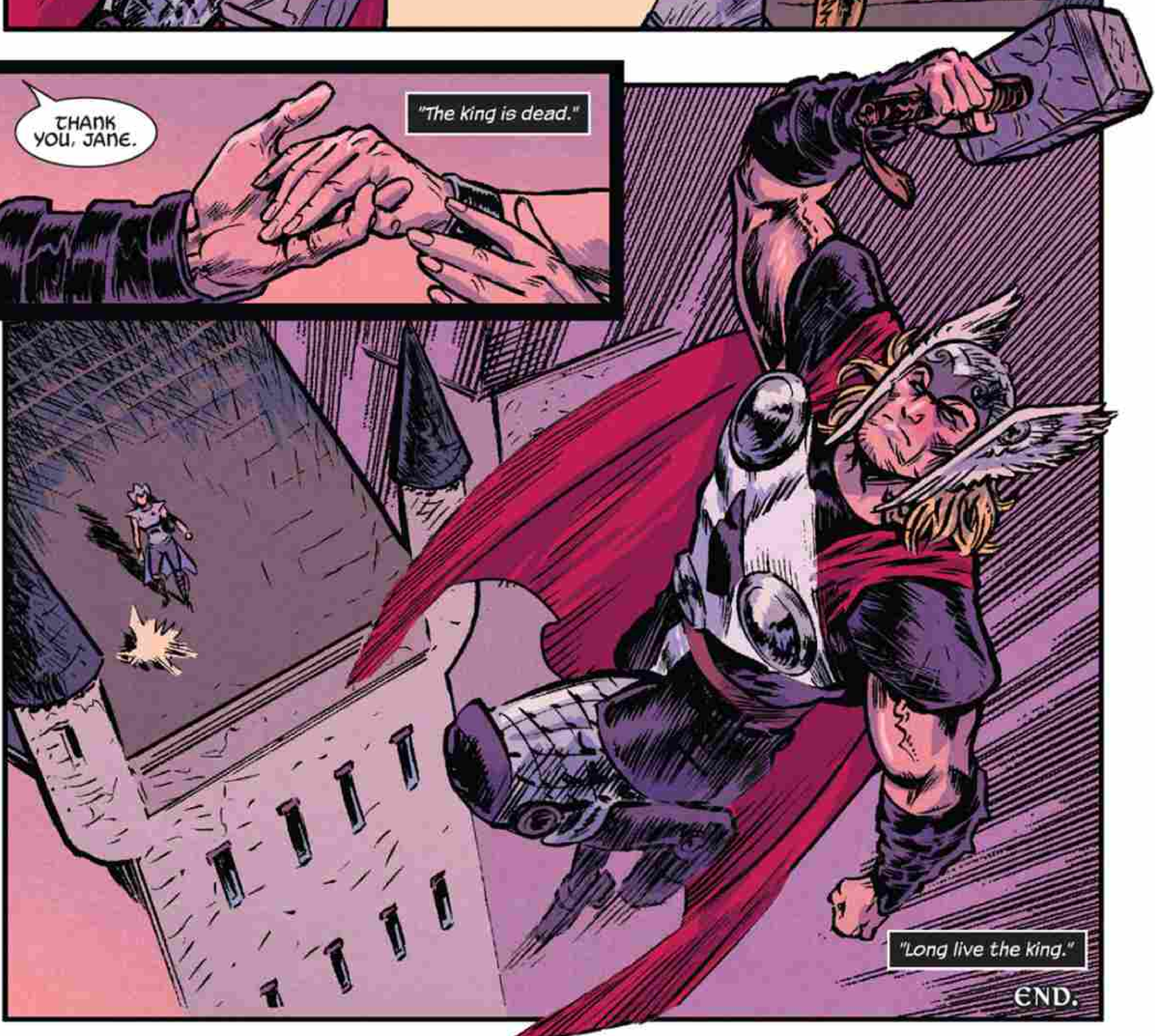
Their voices fill the space between the worlds.



"AH, I FORGOT ABOUT THE RABBIT. HOW COULD I FORGET THE RABBIT? BUT THAT IS A STORY FOR ANOTHER NIGHT..."

AND SO THE TALE CONTINUED. YEAR AFTER YEAR.

And she wishes he could hear them too--



QUOTH THE RAVENS: THE HUGINN & MUNINN SHOW

WRITE TO US AT MHEROES@MARVEL.COM
AND MARK YOUR MISSIVES "OKAY TO PRINT."



And so it ends here, our dear friends! Finally, peace for King Odin and even for King Bor, and the dead all returned to Valhalla, Hel and other such resting places.

Is this the final column of "Quoth the Raven" then, Muninn? Finally. I did not realize when we began this how much answering the missives would carve into the time I set aside for napping.

You can't fool me, or our observant readers, Huginn! We both know, you enjoyed being asked for your opinions. And to be in the spotlight. But yes, this is the last one...so let us get right to it!

Dear H & M Show,

Oops, sorry! I meant to say "Dear Honorable Huginn and Majestic Muninn." So, I wonder where two ravens such as yourselves go for vacation. No letter columns for two or three issues gives you plenty of time to get to...say, even Japan if you wanted. Yet even though your presence in the back matter was missing, you still managed to show up in the stories! Maybe you didn't really have a vacation after all?

Case in point, issue #31: You ravens didn't make the cover, BUT just when I thought you'd be upstaged by those two flying goats...on pages 12 to 14, we got ravens galore! Even giant ones! Plus, you guys got speaking roles again. That is awesome! So, what did you guys think of the GIANT ravens (Valravns)? Must've been scary for you. At least they were chained up.

And you still got some page time (page 7, panels 2 to 4) in #32. Spying on Laussa, eh? Must be good work if you can get it! Oh, and earlier I really liked how Valkyrie put those valravns in their place. I score that as a victory for you guys! Finally, you did a great job in the mighty missive column show this time too. You didn't pick MY letter, but the ones you chose were pretty good! I look forward to next issue. I hope you guys are on the cover!

Alan Bowman

Do not think that I cannot recognize that sarcasm, Master Alan, but we ARE the honorable Huginn and majestic Muninn! And I'll start calling you "Aviary Afficionado Alan." Anyway, do you really want to know what I think of the valravns? Those pesky, disgusting, good-for-nothing layabouts--

Ah, Huginn, if you don't relax, you're going to start molting! But yes, they are not our favorite birds. And they do smell something terrible. And apologies that we did not get to your last missive--we do so always enjoy your missives, Master Alan! But we only have so much time. And space. And time and space. The time storm can only help us in so many ways.

And by the way, we could never be upstaged by those two flying goats. They certainly didn't make the cover. But let it be known that we are not afraid of valravns--we are irritated by them!

Greetings,

I have a question for you all:

"What is Thor's favorite seasoning?"

"The All-Spice!"

I'll see myself out...

#MakeMineMarvel
Carlton Glassford

Hah! Oh, that is very good. I will be repeating that one to the king with his dinner!

You know, I realize that this is a joke, but it did make me want to fly to Midgard and have a sample. Lord Volstagg's dear wife, Hildagund, would make excellent use of it in her pies. What do you think, Huginn--is it time for an Asgardian tome of cooking, like the one the Wakandans have?

Don't be silly, Muninn. A Midgardian palate cannot handle an Asgardian meal! Though I wouldn't mind more Midgardian recipe volumes in Asgard...they can be so creative with their use of breeding. And perhaps then the All-Father would not need to summon chefs from Midgard the next time he finds himself craving that dish called "succotash."

But what a delicious dish it was! If only we could share it with our readers...but we can at least tell them where to find the story of our devouring it! The Midgardians call it T.E.S.T. KITCHEN on some sort of application that has no limits?

It is called "Marvel Unlimited," Muninn, you dusty old bird.

Greetings, noble Huginn & Muninn,

All praise to the All-Father, the last page of THOR #30 featured runes written in Elder Futhark that actually translate! "IT IS OPEN!"--"It is open"! Yes, there's a typographical error, but the overall meaning is readily discernible. The correct runes are "IT IS OPEN." The intended Sowilo (ᚱ) was switched with Raido (ᚱ)--an "s" sound made into an "r" sound. Close enough. Have the Norns fated me a prized Marvel No-Prize for this correction?

Andrew Kollar

Greetings, Master Andrew! What excellent news for me that you've sent in this correction, as Huginn now owes me half his dinner per the terms of our wager...he didn't trust that any of our eagle-eyed readers would have any knowledge of the ancient script at all!

One singular Midgardian could translate the runes, Muninn--one! I'd say my side of the wager holds. Midgardians in general have no familiarity with them.

Tsk, tsk--there's no reason to be a sore loser. Or a soar loser, for that matter. You said no Midgardian would know enough to spot the error. But alas, Master Andrew, not even the Norns wield power over the No-Prizes! I hope the satisfaction of proving Huginn wrong is prize enough. It generally is for me.

Huginn and Muninn,

Love the Nic Klein cover of #33. The story begins to unfold toward vital revelations. Doom finally receives a hammer in the face. YESSS!!! Thanos and his involvement in all of this was featured. And Hela was liberated by Thor. Now we know how baby Laussa was brought into this episode. My excitement just went up a degree or two. Juan Gedeon's artwork is good, though I miss Klein. Matt Wilson's color work is great. Looking forward to learning why King Bor created the "Black Stone." See you next issue!

Robert Greg Espinosa

Master Robert! How we have enjoyed your letters, inquiries and thoughts through all these stories, and no less here. Master Nic had such a deep love and respect for Asgard and all its tales, and he will continue to tell marvelous stories over in the chronicles of the Incredible Hulk. But Masters Juan and Sergio and Sean also lent their hands to artful depictions of this, the story of our dead being stolen and returned that Master Torunn told so brilliantly! And Master Matt's color art has always inspired awe...but if only you Midgardians could see it through our eyes! Ravens can see many more colors than humans, you see.

Enough, Muninn, let us not ignore that that petulant Doctor Doom did finally receive the justice he deserved for stealing the souls of our dead! Even we were shocked that Hela chose to show mercy to such insolence.

But all is set right once again, and our dear former king can finally pass on to Valhalla! But indeed, the age of Odin has ended, as has our turn on this story. I will certainly miss reading and responding to your missives, and Huginn will as well, even if he claims otherwise! But so continue the tales of the age of Thor...and as we see all, we know that you have quite the tales ahead of you!

--Huginn and Muninn

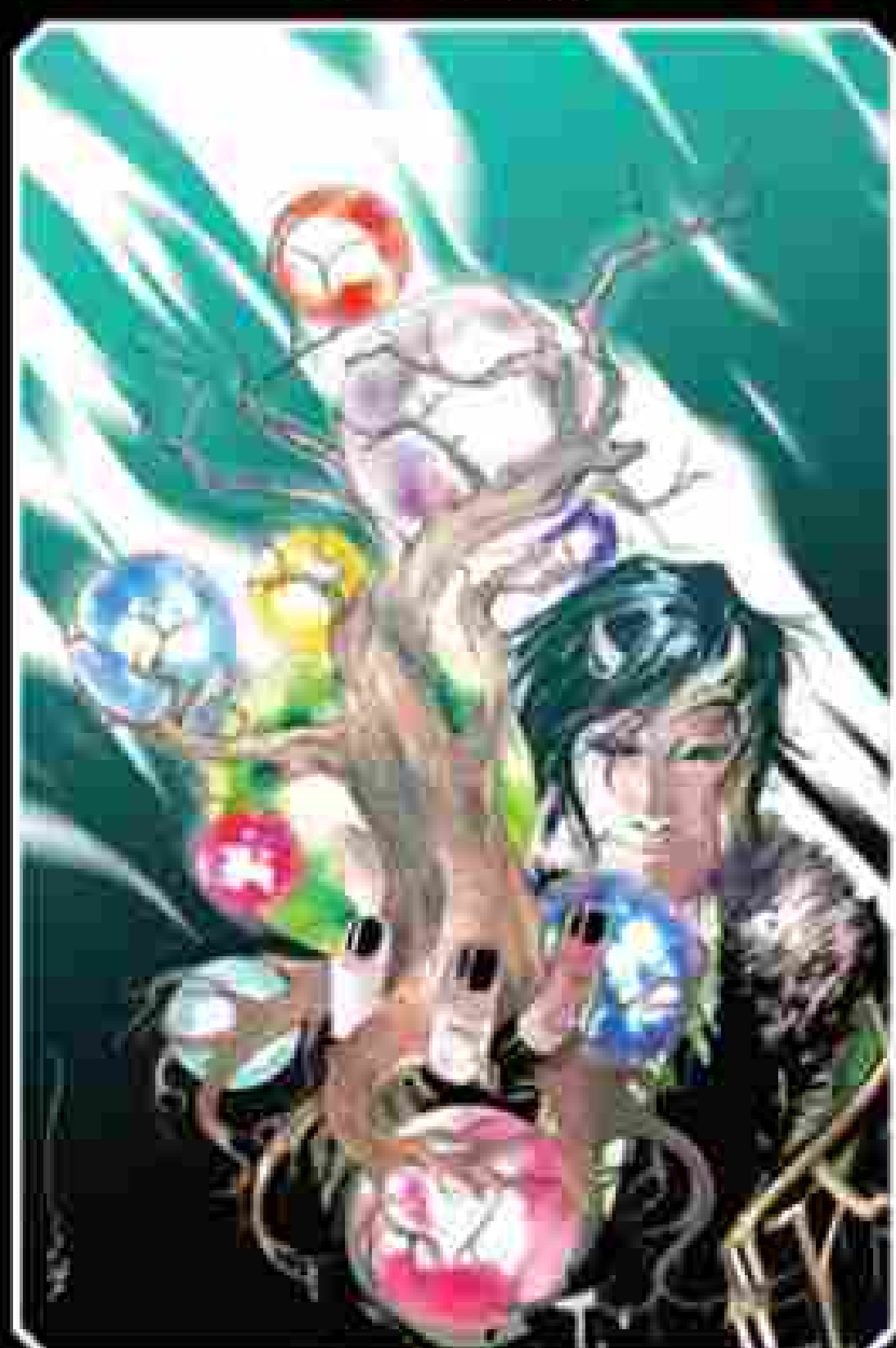
NEXT:

THOR ANNUAL #1



BY JACKSON LANZING,
COLLIN KELLY
& IBRAIM ROBERSON.

LOKI #2



BY DAN WATTERS &
GERMAN PERALTA.

WHAT IF...?
DARK: LOKI #1



BY WALTER SIMONSON
& SCOT EATON.

AND THEN IN AUGUST, DON'T MISS THE
EPIC NEW VOLUME OF THOR BY AL
EWING AND MARTÍN CÔCCOLO, WITH
COVERS BY ALEX ROSS! IT'S THE GOD
OF THUNDER AS YOU'VE NEVER SEEN
HIM BEFORE--HE IS...

THE IMMORTAL

THOR

